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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT MYD Troops in the Uranium Mining Area

DATE DISTR. 23 July 1953

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CORRECTION

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An information report with the above heading [redacted] was issued on 19 June 1953. The attachments to this report were issued, in error, as Top Secret. Their classification should be changed to read as Secret [redacted]

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STATE		ARMY	<u>Ev</u>	<u>#x</u>	NAVY	x	AIR	<u>#x</u>	FBI		AEC						
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR.

SUBJECT **IND Troops in the Uranium Ore Mining Area**

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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2. Uranium mining

The uranium ore is usually mined underground by German workmen under supervision and control of Soviet mine specialists. As the workers include compulsorily drafted laborers and convicts, they are also controlled by PVD units. The mined crude ore is transported to special ore processing installations, such as ore washing plants or ore mills by either rail or truck. After processing, the material is packed in boxes and shipped to the U.S.S.R. The handling of the material after it leaves the pits to the U.S.S.R. is apparently handled by Soviet technical specialists and labor units.

3. Organization and labor

The uranium deposits in Eastern Germany are worked under the supervision of the Soviet Wismut Corporation with headquarters in the Siegmarschoenau restricted area in Chemnitz. An administrative office which, apparently, is responsible for the uranium area in Saxony is located in the Hochhaus building in Aue. The Wismut Corporation is equipped with trucks

One of these motor transport units was identified at the barracks installations in Chemnitz-Ebersdorf. No information is available to indicate the branches of service and assignment of Soviet units employed in uranium mining. The labor units are quartered in factory buildings and new barracks buildings which, in some instances, are referred to as

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- 2 -

Internats. These quarters are marked ~~SS~~ in the attached diagram. Except for individual special units, e.g. engineers for blasting operations, signal troops and motor transport units, who wear their service color, the service color most often reported is red-bordered black with all types of insignia. The total strength of these labor soldiers is about 4,000. Groups of 10 to 300 are marched or hauled in trucks to the working places. They are apparently not directly guarded by NVD soldiers and evidently a small number belongs to penal units. It is still possible, however, that soldiers of occupation forces in East Germany who are charged with minor offences are detached to these labor troops. Since most of these soldiers were recruits and were also observed receiving training on light infantry weapons, they may also be members of youth organizations. It is known that specialists for mining and heavy industries are sent to factory and plant schools (FPO) in the U.S.S.R. and wear uniforms. This, however, is contrary to the practice of the voluntary premilitary training organization called DOSAAF. No shipments of replacements for the troops stationed in the uranium mining area from the U.S.S.R. or East Germany have been reported to date. Some of the Soviet soldiers who wear red-bordered black epaulets belong to AAA batteries of the 6th Gds AAA Div of the IV Arty Corps in Chemnitz which are employed in the uranium area. Four emplacements, each permanently occupied by an AAA battery, have been identified in the Aue-Schwarzenberg-Johanngeorgenstadt area. It is believed, however, that about 12 AAA batteries are emplaced in the uranium area, with the personnel rotated after 4 to 6 weeks. Only half of the personnel strength of the division was observed stationed in Chemnitz which is the post of the 6th Gds AAA Div. The AAA emplacements are apparently located close to the ore processing installations. Adjacent hills are placed off limits for security reasons.

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4. NVD Troops.

The Soviet security troops observed in East Germany were subordinate to the Ministry for State Security and, therefore, were referred to as MGB troops. As this ministry was merged with the Ministry of the Interior after the death of Stalin, the troops were again referred to as NVD troops, beginning March 1953. The fact that the bulk of the NVD troops stationed in East Germany are concentrated in the uranium area is indicative of the special control exercised there. These NVD troops differ from other soldiers in the uranium area by their service color which is black-bordered crimson. A central headquarters of these NVD units is also located in the restricted Siegmars-Schoenau area. The NVD troop units are organized into regiments, each with 2 to 3 battalions. Independent battalions are probably in existence. The NVD troops are equipped with light and heavy infantry weapons and, in many cases, they have dogs. No armored vehicles were observed. It is believed that the NVD troops have a total of about 500 motor vehicles in the uranium area.

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The IVD units guard pits and installations of the Wismuth Corporation as well as shipments of uranium ore. Although no information on employment on the border between East Germany and Czechoslovakia is available, it is believed that they also perform border guard duty. No special border units were observed. Quarters occupied by IVD units are marked as follows in the attached diagram: [REDACTED] It is believed that between 6,000 and 7,500 IVD troops are stationed in the uranium area. They are organized into about 5 IVD regiments and several independent battalions. They are located as follows:

ILLEGIB

Chemnitz: Western section of the barracks installation north of Leninstrasse, occupied by a unit in battalion or regimental strength.

Auerbach: Restricted area II (see diagram), occupied by a unit in regimental strength, possibly the 113th (?) IVD Regt

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Aue: Small barracks installation, formerly Wellner Factory (see diagram), occupied by a unit in regimental strength

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Schwarzenberg: Kutcher Factory (see diagram), occupied by a unit in regimental strength

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Johann-georgenstadt: Three barracks installations (see diagram), occupied by units in the strength of 3 to 4 battalions which, possibly, belong to a security regiment employed as mobile reserve.

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Annaberg: Two barracks installations (see diagram), occupied by units in regimental strength including elements in Barchenstein, Rottendorf and Niederschlag

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A laundry is located in a former wool-cleaning factory in Loosnitz northeast of Aue. IVD units stationed in the uranium area turn in their washing to this laundry.

5. Volkspolizei

A cadre unit of the KVP, possibly the KVVD Meiningen, with a strength of about 2,000 soldiers with artillery and tanks moved from the area of Thuringia to the area of Niederschlag, south of Annaberg in the fall of 1952.

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Attachment: 1 Map of Uranium Ore Mining Area, indicating locations of IVD (HGB) units. (Army -9, Air-5, AEC-3, GCI-3, ORR-3, OSI-2, Navy-1)

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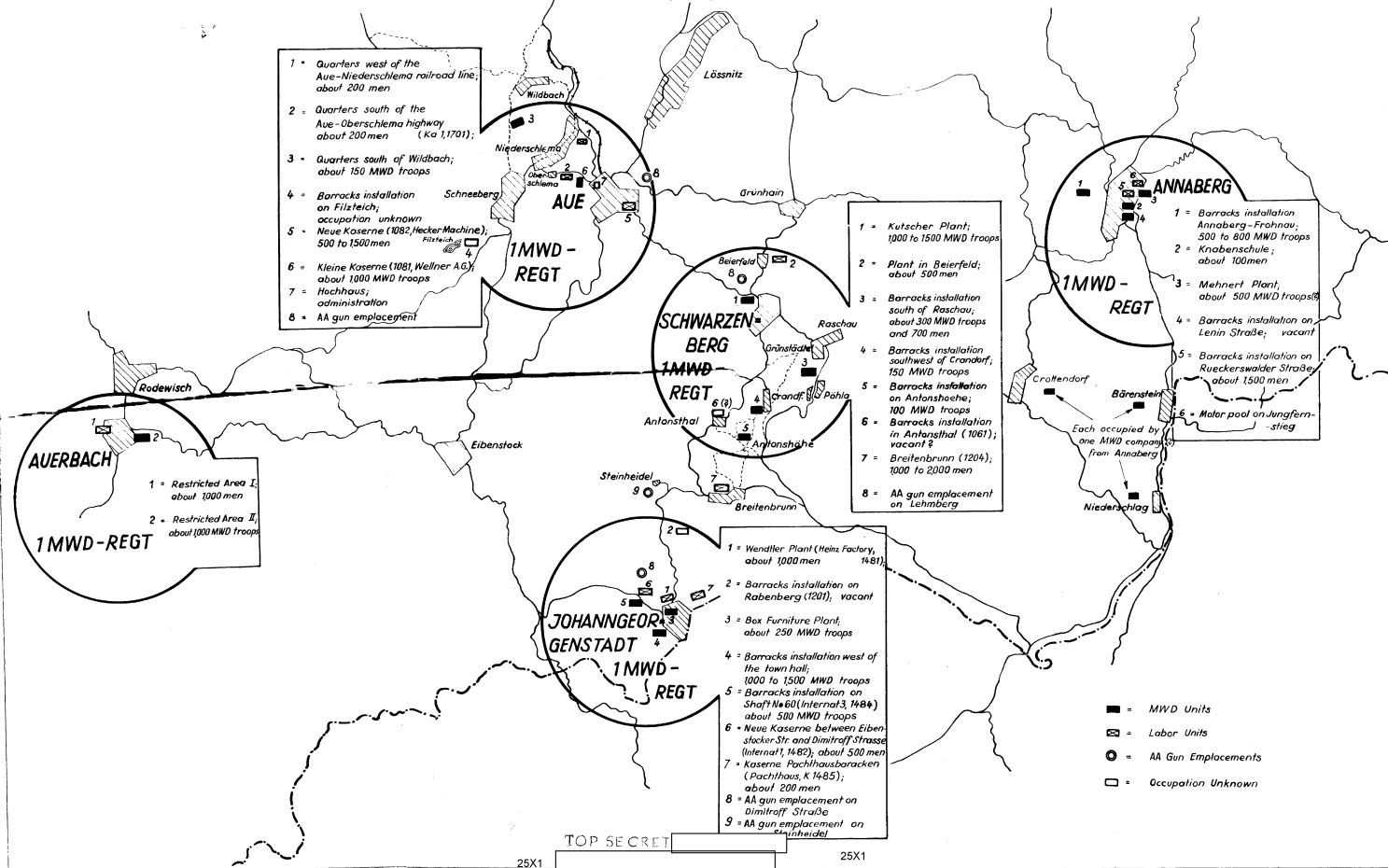
MWD Units, Labor Units and AA Gun Emplacements in the Uranium Mining Area in Saxony

March 1953

Scale 1 : 100,000

Annex

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